

REMARKS

Claim 1-20 were pending in the present patent application. Claims 7-12 are allowed, and claims 3-5, 15 and 19 are objected to. Claims 1, 2, 6, 13, 14, 16-18 and 20 are rejected. By this Amendment, claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 15, 16, 19 and 20 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 13, 14, 17 and 18 have been canceled. This application now includes claims 3-12, 15, 16, 19 and 20.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 7-12.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 3-5, 15 and 19 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 3, 4, 5, 15 and 19 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 3-5, 15 and 19 are believed in condition for allowance.

The title of the invention, "DOCTOR BLADE FOR USE WITH AN IMAGING APPARATUS" was objected to as not being descriptive of the invention. As the term is used in Applicants' Specification, a doctor blade is a blade that is used to meter the amount of toner that is to be carried, for example, by the developer roll to the photoconductive member. (See, e.g., Applicants' spec. at page 1, lines 14-15). Accordingly, Applicants have replaced the original title with "BUFFED TONER METERING BLADE FOR USE WITH AN IMAGING APPARATUS". If the Examiner still has concerns after considering the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide a suggestion of an acceptable title.

The Examiner objected to the Specification at page 4, line 13 and page 6, line 28, citing the need for correction to change "feed" to --fed-- and change "arrange" to -- arranged--, respectively. Applicants have so amended the Specification.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 13, 14, 16-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,360,068 B1 (Kinoshita, et al.).

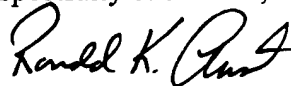
Claims 1, 2, 13, 14, 17 and 18 have been canceled to expedite the prosecution of the present application. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from otherwise allowable base claim 5. Claim 16 has been amended to depend from otherwise allowable base claim 15. Claim 20 has been amended to depend from otherwise allowable base claim 19. Accordingly, the stated grounds for rejection are now moot, and claims 6, 16 and 20 are believed allowable in their present form.

Having addressed each objection and rejection set forth in the Office Action of January 23, 2006, Applicants believe this application to be in condition for allowance in its present form, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner so find and issue a Notice of Allowance in due course.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: April 21, 2006.

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Name of Registered Representative



Signature

April 21, 2006

Date

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